

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following summary of the Goldstone Report as part of the debate on H. Res. 867.

EXCERPT FROM UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT (THE GOLDSTONE REPORT)

B. METHODOLOGY

11. To implement its mandate, the Mission determined that it was required to consider any actions by all parties that might have constituted violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. The mandate also required it to review related actions in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel.

12. With regard to temporal scope, the Mission decided to focus primarily on events, actions or circumstances occurring since 19 June 2008, when a ceasefire was agreed between the Government of Israel and Hamas. The Mission has also taken into consideration matters occurring after the end of military operations that constitute continuing human rights and international humanitarian law violations related to or as a consequence of the military operations, up to 31 July 2009.

13. The Mission also analysed the historical context of the events that led to the military operations in Gaza between during the period from 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009 and the links between these operations and overarching Israeli policies vis-à-vis the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

14. The Mission considered that the reference in its mandate to violations committed "in the context" of the December–January military operations required it to include restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms relating to Israel's strategies and actions in the context of its military operations.

15. The normative framework for the Mission has been general international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law.

16. This report does not purport to be exhaustive in documenting the very high number of relevant incidents that occurred in the period covered by the Mission's mandate. Nevertheless, the Mission considers that the report is illustrative of the main patterns of violations. In Gaza, the Mission investigated 36 incidents.

17. The Mission based its work on an independent and impartial analysis of compliance by the parties with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law in the context of the recent conflict in Gaza, and on international investigative standards developed by the United Nations.

18. The Mission adopted an inclusive approach in gathering information and seeking views. Information-gathering methods included: (a) the review of reports from different sources; (b) interviews with victims, witnesses and other persons having relevant information; (c) site visits to specific locations in Gaza where incidents had occurred; (d) the analysis of video and photographic images, including satellite imagery; (e) the review of medical reports about injuries to victims; (f) the forensic analysis of weapons and ammunition remnants collected at incident sites; (g) meetings with a variety of interlocutors; (h) invitations to provide information relating to the Mission's investigation requirements; (i) the wide circulation of a public call for written submissions; (j) public hearings in Gaza and in Geneva.

19. The Mission conducted 188 individual interviews. It reviewed more than 300 reports, submissions and other documentation either researched of its own motion, received in reply to its call for submissions and notes verbales or provided during meetings or otherwise, amounting to more than 10,000 pages, over 30 videos and 1,200 photographs.

20. By refusing to cooperate with the Mission, the Government of Israel prevented it from meeting Israeli government officials, but also from travelling to Israel to meet with Israeli victims and to the West Bank to meet with Palestinian Authority representatives and Palestinian victims.

21. The Mission conducted field visits, including investigations of incident sites, in the Gaza Strip. This allowed the Mission to observe first-hand the situation on the ground, and speak to many witnesses and other relevant persons.

22. The purpose of the public hearings, which were broadcast live, was to enable victims, witnesses and experts from all sides to the conflict to speak directly to as many people as possible in the region as well as in the international community. The Mission gave priority to the participation of victims and people from the affected communities. The 38 public testimonies covered facts as well as legal and military matters. The Mission had initially intended to hold hearings in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank. However, denial of access to Israel and the West Bank resulted in the decision to hold hearings of participants from Israel and the West Bank in Geneva.

23. In establishing its findings, the Mission sought to rely primarily and whenever possible on information it gathered first-hand. Information produced by others, including reports, affidavits and media reports, was used primarily as corroboration.

24. The Mission's final conclusions on the reliability of the information received were made taking into consideration the Mission's assessment of the credibility and reliability of the witnesses it met, verifying sources and methodology used in reports and documents produced by others, cross-referencing the relevant material and information, and assessing whether, in all the circumstances, there was sufficient information of a credible and reliable nature for the Mission to make a finding in fact.

25. On this basis, the Mission has, to the best of its ability, determined what facts have been established. In many cases it has found that acts entailing individual criminal responsibility have been committed. In all of

these cases the Mission has found that there is sufficient information to establish the objective elements of the crimes in question. In almost all of the cases the Mission has also been able to determine whether or not it appears that the acts in question were done deliberately or recklessly or in the knowledge that the consequence that resulted would result in the ordinary course of events. The Mission has thus referred in many cases to the relevant fault element (*mens rea*). The Mission fully appreciates the importance of the presumption of innocence; the findings in the report do not subvert the operation of that principle. The findings do not attempt to identify the individuals responsible for the commission of offences nor do they pretend to reach the standard of proof applicable in criminal trials.

26. In order to provide the parties concerned with an opportunity to submit additional relevant information and express their position and respond to allegations, the Mission also submitted comprehensive lists of questions to the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities in advance of completing its analysis and findings. The Mission received replies from the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities but not from Israel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1769. To Israel

The Mission recommends that Israel immediately cease the border closures and restrictions of passage through border crossings with the Gaza Strip and allow passage of goods necessary and sufficient to meet the needs of the population, for the recovery and reconstruction of housing and essential services and for the resumption of meaningful economic activity in the Gaza Strip.

The Mission recommends that Israel cease the restrictions on access to the sea for fishing purposes imposed on the Gaza Strip and allow such fishing activities within the 20 nautical miles as provided for in the Oslo accords. It further recommends that Israel allow the resumption of agricultural activity within the Gaza Strip, including within areas in the vicinity of the borders with Israel.

Israel should initiate a review of the rules of engagement, standard operating procedures, open fire regulations and other guidance for military and security personnel. The Mission recommends that Israel avail itself of the expertise of the ICRC, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant bodies, and Israeli experts, civil society organizations with the relevant expertise and specialization, in order to ensure compliance in this respect with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In particular such rules of engagement should ensure that the principles of proportionality, distinction, precaution and non-discrimination are effectively integrated in all such guidance and in any oral briefings provided to officers, soldiers and security forces, so as to avoid the recurrence of Palestinian civilian deaths, destruction and affronts on human dignity in violation of international law.

The Mission recommends that Israel allow freedom of movement for Palestinians within the OPT—within the West Bank including East Jerusalem, between the Gaza Strip and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the West Bank and between the OPT and the outside world—in accordance with international human rights standards and international commitments entered into by Israel and the representatives of the Palestinian people. The Mission further recommends that Israel forthwith lifts travel bans currently placed on Palestinians by reason of their human rights or political activities.

The Mission recommends that Israel release Palestinians who are detained in Israeli prisons in connection with the occupation. The release of children should be an utmost priority. The Mission further recommends that Israel cease the discriminatory treatment of Palestinian detainees. Family visits for prisoners from Gaza should resume.

Israel should forthwith cease interference with national political processes in the OPT, and as a first step release all members of the Palestinian Legislative Council currently in detention and allow all members of the PLC to move between Gaza and the West Bank so that the Council may resume functioning.

The Government of Israel should cease actions aimed at limiting the expression of criticism by civil society and members of the public concerning Israel's policies and conduct during the military operations in the Gaza Strip. The Mission also recommends that Israel set up an independent inquiry to assess whether the treatment by Israeli judicial authorities of Palestinian and Jewish Israelis expressing dissent in connection with the offensive was discriminatory, both in terms of charges and detention pending trial. The results of the inquiry should be made public and, subject to the findings, appropriate remedial action should be taken.

The Government of Israel should refrain from any action of reprisal against Palestinian and Israeli individuals and organizations that have cooperated with the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, in particular individuals who have appeared at the Public Hearings held by the Mission in Gaza and Geneva and expressed criticism of actions by the State of Israel.

The Mission recommends that Israel reiterates its commitment to respect the inviolability of UN premises and personnel and that it undertakes all appropriate measures to ensure that there is no repetition of violations in the future (ref Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the UN). It further recommends that reparation to the United Nations be provided fully and without further delay by the State of Israel, and that the General Assembly consider this matter.

1770. *To Palestinian armed groups*

The Mission recommends that Palestinian armed groups undertake forthwith to respect international humanitarian law, in particular by renouncing attacks on Israeli civilians and civilian objects, and take all feasible precautionary measures to avoid harm to Palestinian civilians during hostilities.

The Mission recommends that Palestinian armed groups who hold Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in detention release him on humanitarian grounds. Pending such release they should recognize his status as prisoner of war, treat him as such, and allow him ICRC visits.

1771. *To responsible Palestinian authorities*

The Mission recommends that the Palestinian Authority issue clear instructions to security forces under its command to abide by human rights norms as enshrined in the Palestinian Basic Law and international instruments; ensure prompt and independent investigation of all allegations of serious human rights violations by security forces under its control; and end resort to military justice to deal with cases involving civilians.

The Mission recommends that the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities

release without delay all political detainees currently in their power and refrain from further arrests on political grounds and in violation of international human rights law.

The Mission recommends that the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities continue to enable the free and independent operation of Palestinian non-governmental organizations, including human rights organizations, and of the Independent Commission on Human Rights.

HONORING JP PRITCHARD AND LANA HUGHES

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two great southeast Texans. Every weekday morning for more than a quarter century, Texans have started their mornings off by tuning into JP Pritchard & Lana Hughes for the latest news. These two consummate radio professionals have been there for us through Hurricanes Alicia, Rita and Ike and Tropical Storm Allison, the most destructive tropical storm in U.S. History. They've kept Houston in the know through good economic times and bad—winning more national, state, and local awards than they have time to count or shelf space to display.

Lana Hughes, a native southeast Texan, is a graduate of Conroe High School in the Eighth Congressional District and Baylor University. She got her start in journalism working for the Conroe Courier and KIKR Radio before joining KTRH in the early 1980s. An avid fan of the NASA Human Space Flight Program, Lana can cite stats on every mission, but her greatest passion is saving animals. Her blog, Animal House, has placed numerous pets into loving homes and informed all of southeast Texas about the problems of abused, neglected, and abandoned animals. If Lana is not in the newsroom, she can found volunteering at a local animal shelter or getting one of her many friends to fall in love with a new four-legged family member.

JP Pritchard got to Texas as fast as he could and once here he stayed. A graduate of Drake University and the broadcasting school of hard knocks, JP and his lovely bride, Esther, have three sons and two grandsons who are the apple of their grandfather's eye. His first job in southeast Texas was as reporter/anchor and news director of KULF Radio, now known as KBME, The Sports Animal. From there, he joined the KTRH team where he has been ever since.

While he enjoys anchoring the news, JP is also proud of his documentary work having won top honors for his 2-hour special on the history of Houston. JP has been used to having his name be "JP & Lana" for more than a quarter century.

Together, these two amazingly talented people have become family members to millions in southeast Texans who instinctively tune to NewsRadio 740 AM, KTRH whenever news is breaking.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, I was in the U.S. Capitol, where the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee was meeting to markup the annual defense spending bill. We watched on television as the two airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center Towers, and soon after, evacuated the building because another plane was headed in our direction.

As I got outside, I saw the billows of black smoke rising in the distance from the Pentagon. The plane had actually hit a section of the Pentagon that had recently undergone significant renovations. I had previously earmarked funds to accelerate the building's renovation project, and I was told that had it not been for those improvements, the building would have suffered far greater damage and more lives would have been lost.

It wasn't until later that morning that I had learned of another plane crashing into the quiet fields of Somerset County within my congressional district. There was little known about that flight, so the following morning, September 12th, I drove back to Pennsylvania and to Stonycreek Township.

Looking out across this field, I saw no sign that an airplane had crashed here. There were no burning buildings or piles of rubble like we saw pictured in New York and at the Pentagon. All that remained in this field was smoldering earth and a charred tree line.

I was quoted as saying, "Somebody here was a hero, a passenger . . . or the pilot who would not fly on. There must have been a struggle. Some heroic individual brought this plane down."

I was right about a struggle, but I was wrong in saying "some heroic individual brought this plane down." In fact, there were 40 heroic individuals aboard United Airlines Flight 93 that morning. Forty ordinary citizens, who together, decided to make an extraordinary sacrifice.

In early 2002, I introduced legislation establishing a national memorial to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93. Nearly 8 years later, I'm honored that we are breaking ground on a memorial that is both fitting of their sacrifice and contribution to our great Nation.

I want to commend and complement Secretary Salazar and the National Park Service, the Families of Flight 93, our local and state officials, and all those involved with the planning and construction of the Flight 93 National Memorial.

Future generations will look out across this quiet Pennsylvania field and forever be reminded of the story of Flight 93 and the courage and sacrifice of her passengers and crew.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2009, I was unavoidably detained

and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 868. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 868: "yes"—Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2869. I voted against the bill during committee consideration. Unfortunately, the bill before us today is even worse than the version reported out of the Homeland Security Committee.

This legislation gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to require farms, manufacturing plants, timber companies, hospitals, and thousands of other facilities across the United States to change the way they do business. The Secretary will be able to dictate what chemicals are used, how they are used and how they are stored. The bill tries to cover this government take over of the private sector with terms like "inherently safer technologies" and "methods to reduce terrorists attack."

The Federal Government could impose mandates to adopt unproven technologies and chemical substitutions, but lacks the technical and personnel expertise to evaluate whether these alternatives are effective, productive, and safe across these sectors.

There are over 3,000 facilities in the U.S. that would be covered under this legislation that employ 50 or fewer people. According to experts, mandating inherently safer technologies, IST, could cost anywhere from thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Companies in my district do not have excess funds to alter how they do business because some bureaucrat in D.C. thinks there is a better way to do it.

Another unprecedented measure in the bill is the establishment of a system allowing any person, even nonaffected persons, to file a lawsuit against the Secretary of Homeland Security if IST is not implemented. This bill might as well be called the Homeland Security Trial Lawyer Employment Act.

Citizen suits are not appropriate in a national security context and this would be the first time Congress would be authorizing such citizen suits in the national or homeland security arena.

The Department of Homeland Security has testified that these suits could result in the release of very sensitive security information through the legal discovery process that would be helpful to terrorists.

This legislation is misguided and interrupts actions on-going at DHS to evaluate and enhance security at chemical facilities. I urge a "no" vote.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501

Description of Request: \$300,000 will be used to complete the technical design report for the relocation of the Bay Park Sewer Treatment outfall from Reynolds Channel to the Atlantic Ocean.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRONX ZOO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th anniversary of the Bronx Zoo, a milestone in the cultural history of New York City. The Bronx Zoo opened its doors on November 8, 1899, and is the largest metropolitan zoo in the country with approximately 4 million visitors annually and featuring 6,000 animals and 600 species.

The Bronx Zoo continues to win awards for its world class exhibits and is well known for creating naturalistic habitats. Chief among them is the Congo Gorilla Forest which is one of the zoo's most popular exhibits. Spanning more than 6½ acres, the exhibit's main attraction is the western lowland gorillas, making up the species largest breeding group in all of the Americas. The Gorilla Forest is the largest man made rainforest in the world. The rain forest simulation gives visitors the chance to experience the Congo as if they were there. Along with the lowland gorillas, the exhibit is home to white bearded de Brazza monkeys, okapis and red river hogs. Since the opening of the exhibit, it has had 7 million visitors. The exhibit fees go to help conservation efforts in Africa which have helped 18 National Parks in such countries as Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Gabon.

From the zoo grounds, hundreds of conservationists work every day hand-in-hand with more than 3,000 employees located in 65 developing countries around the world. The zoo's first conservation achievement was here in the United States of America, where, by 1905, uncontrolled hunting had reduced the great herds of bison to fewer than 1,000 animals. Theodore Roosevelt, along with William Hornaday, the Bronx Zoo's first director, were founding members of the American Bison Society, ABS, an organization formed at the

Bronx Zoo to preserve this icon of the American prairies. In 1907, the Bronx Zoo sent a group of zoo-born bison to Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Montana to help reestablish the species throughout the plains. Along with its broad conservation efforts, the Bronx Zoo's award winning exhibits and pioneering research has garnered world recognition.

In the Bronx, the zoo's impact is felt in yet another way. In addition to being a cultural staple and headquarters for an international conservation organization, it is an economic cornerstone in the Bronx. On average, the Bronx Zoo employs more than 750 full-time staff per year and is the largest employer of youth in the borough, providing employment opportunities, job skills training, and scholarship opportunities for more than 700 teenagers each year. Two years ago, the Bronx Zoo opened the first New York City public school focused on wildlife conservation. At the school, children can learn math, sciences, history, and arts by interacting with the zoo's animals and experts.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Bronx Zoo on its 110th anniversary and to applaud the institution for its efforts in leading the world in wildlife conservation as well as bringing joy to the millions of visitors who have walked through its gates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2009, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to the tragic event at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009. I had to travel to Fort Hood in order to be briefed on the latest findings in the shootings investigation, and to determine what steps could be taken to help comfort the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragedy. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: Roll No. 865—"nay"; roll No. 866—"aye"; roll No. 67—"aye"; roll No. 868—"aye"; roll No. 869—"nay"; roll No. 870—"aye"; roll No. 871—"aye"; roll No. 872—"aye"; roll No. 873—"aye"; roll No. 874—"aye"; and roll No. 875—"nay."

COMMENDING THE RABUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR HOSTING THE 11TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DINNER

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on December 23, 1776, just days before the Continental Army won a great victory at the Battle of Trenton, General George Washington asked aides to read passages from Thomas Paine's *The Crisis*. That great book, which lifted the spirits of the army from the darkest depths, famously begins, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that

stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

On November 11, Veterans Day, many celebrations will be held to honor those who have served this great country. We will honor them and applaud their efforts because they are not "summer soldiers" or "sunshine patriots," but instead they answered the call in many of our Nation's most turbulent times.

At one such event, the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce will honor hundreds of veterans, spouses, and widows/widowers for their service to our Nation. This will be the 11th annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, and I believe it is a great testament to the patriotism and love for country that these chamber members have worked so hard to make this event possible. Veterans of every conflict from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan are expected to attend.

As a marine, I understand how much of a sacrifice it is to serve one's country in the Armed Forces. I know that the many veterans, who will be honored in Rabun County and all across this country, did not join up to be heroes or win medals. Instead, they heard the call of a nation, and they bravely answered. Over the past century, the United States has repeatedly faced overwhelming odds as it has fought to protect liberty at home as well as abroad. Our thanks and gratitude will never be enough to repay the debt this nation owes to all our veterans, but we gratefully offer it anyway.

Because of their service and the grace of God, this country remains the greatest nation on Earth. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Nation's veterans as well as the wonderful members of the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce and all who are honoring those who served.

HONORING EL PASO VETERANS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our El Paso area veterans. Our nation joins together annually on November 11 to honor our men and women who have served in uniform for their service and for their sacrifices. From speeches to ceremonies, the voices of Americans join in tribute to all veterans, from the patriots who fought for our freedom in the Revolutionary War to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are serving today in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

It is critical that our support for veterans goes beyond words; we must honor those who have served with our actions. As a Vietnam veteran, I came to office knowing that one of my highest duties would be to improve the lives of all of our veterans, particularly those whom I have the privilege to represent here in Congress.

El Paso is a community which embraces our nation's military forces and the families who support them. El Pasoans have demonstrated our support for veterans and the soldiers who live and work on Fort Bliss in many ways, from a new USO center and another in the works, to an annual Freedom Fiesta. Perhaps the most important development for El Paso

veterans is the establishment of a new joint Army and Veterans Administration, VA, medical center complex. To meet the needs of the historic expansion of Fort Bliss and the growing number of veterans, these new facilities will bring care to all generations, helping ensure that all veterans get the care that they need and deserve.

Congress has greatly expanded veterans benefits in the last three years, passing historic increases in VA spending. Congress also enacted a new GI Bill to provide a full four-year college education to every military member who served on active duty since September 11, 2001. And Congress added funds to improve the VA's claims processing and decrease wait times for all veterans.

Our veterans swore an oath to serve and defend our nation. They backed this oath with their actions, and in some cases their lives. Our country owes these brave men and women, not just our pledge to honor that service, but tangible benefits which reflect their sacrifices to ensure we remain strong, secure and free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on November 2, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 832, 833, and 834 to attend parent teacher conferences for my two sons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of those votes.

HONORING WILLIAM AVERY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of William Avery, former Governor and Congressman from the state of Kansas. Governor Avery passed away November 4th at the age of 98 in his home state that he served in so many ways. Prior to his passing, he was the oldest living former member of Congress. A lifelong Kansan, Governor Avery deserves to be celebrated as a fine public servant and a good man.

A native of Wakefield, Kansas, he returned to the family farm after graduating from the University of Kansas. Then, Governor Avery did what many young men of his generation did. He left the family farm to serve his country in World War II as a pilot. This would be only the first act of service in what would prove to be a distinguished career serving the people of not only Kansas, but the nation.

Following his service on his local school board, Governor Avery served four years in the Kansas House of Representatives. This preceded his decade long career representing Kansas in the House of Representatives. Governor Avery then added to his already impressive resume by becoming Kansas' 37th Governor serving in 1965 and '66. While he served only one, two-year term, Governor Avery made a series of indelible marks on the cultural and political landscape of Kansas.

Governor Avery would see his political career come to a final close following an election loss to Bob Dole in a GOP Senatorial primary.

Today, we see an increasing number of public officials who have lost touch with their constituencies. They move to Washington or their respective state capitals and become someone other than the person who was originally elected. Governor Avery was certainly not one of those men. He was simply a farmer and rancher that was entrusted with providing for the wellbeing of his state and nation. Public servants would do well to use this man as a model for their own service. A true man of the people whose heart stayed on the farm on which he was raised. Yet unselfish enough to leave to serve his state and nation when called upon to do so.

A statesman and a gentleman who pursued the right ends regardless of their popularity, Governor Avery would have undoubtedly had a lifelong political career had he focused on the politically expedient choices rather than the choices that would benefit Kansas. That type of courage is, unfortunately, often a rarity in today's leadership. Yes, the family and friends of Governor Avery have lost an important part of their lives. But everyone who has ever held an elected office in this nation has lost a role model of the highest caliber.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Governor Avery during this time of mourning. His children William Avery, Jr., Brad Avery, Barbara Avery, and Sue Avery along with their families have much to be proud of. I am thankful for his service and honored to call him my fellow Kansan.

H.R. 3854: SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND INVESTMENT ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I support our Nation's small business and the passage of the "Small Business Financing and Investment Act," H.R. 3854.

Small businesses play an integral role in the United States economy. Small businesses employ more than half of all workers in the private sector and generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in this country. The small business financing and lending programs improved by this bill would help small businesses not only survive the current downturn, but help them to expand and create new jobs.

Last month, I brought more than 50 high-tech small business owners to Washington to discuss the issues facing their businesses. Many of these small business owners told me about the struggles they face in finding credit and investment funding, which they need to maintain and expand their businesses. They talked about how reluctant banks were to lend to small businesses in these difficult economic times. This bill would help those small business owners by extending key provisions from the Recovery Act passed earlier this year. First, the legislation would aid small businesses by eliminating fees on Small Business Administration, SBA, loans, in order to make these loans more affordable for small businesses. The bill further would assist these small businesses by providing a Federal guarantee of certain loans, to encourage local

banks and credit unions to increase their lending to small businesses.

I appreciate how the Small Business Financing and Investment Act assists high-tech businesses and entrepreneurs. Beginning in the last quarter of 2008, investments in early-stage businesses, such as these, plunged 26 percent. To address this shortage, the bill would establish a new Early-Stage Investment Program at SBA, which would pair SBA grants with private venture capital in order to target investment dollars to promising technology small business startups. The legislation makes improvements to the Renewable Energy Capital Investment program in order to increase investment in small business that are researching alternative and renewable energy technologies to meet our future energy needs.

I am pleased that H.R. 3854 helps veterans interested in starting their own businesses. Our Nation was built by citizen-soldiers, yet too often, our veterans have difficulty finding well-paid, rewarding work in the Nation they served and protected. We need to do more to help our youngest veterans find gainful employment. According to the Department of Labor, veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 had an unemployment rate of 14.1 percent; nearly double the rate of those between the ages of 25 to 34, 7.3 percent. It is unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of veterans who have risked their own lives to defend our country can't find jobs, and many endure homelessness and lives of poverty after they return home. Our brave men and women in uniform have given so much for this country; it is right that the Congress help ensure that our returning soldiers have jobs when they come home. The legislation helps veterans by offering higher guarantees and lower cost loans, so they can access more affordable capital.

The Small Business Financing and Investment Act builds on the investments that this Congress made through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This bill would provide further aid to our small business and continues our efforts to put the economy back on the track to recovery.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill to support our Nation's small businesses.

MEDIA SLIGHT CONSERVATIVE PROTESTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the national media give Americans a tale of two protests.

On the one hand, you have liberal protests, to which the media give extensive and positive coverage. On the other hand, you have conservative protests. The media downplay these demonstrations and demonize the protestors.

On Thursday, thousands of people from around the country gathered in front of the Capitol to voice their opposition to a Government takeover of health care. The New York Times buried its coverage of the protest on page A15.

A couple of months ago, the Times buried its coverage of the conservative September 12 protests on page A37.

In contrast, the Times has given much better coverage to protests regarding amnesty, gay rights, and other liberal causes.

The New York Times and the national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, not just the ones they agree with.

PROMOTING INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING MEDICINE ACT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I and others have spoken at length on the ways that this bill improves and will improve health care for all of our constituents. Another significant benefit of this legislation which has not received as much attention will be the creation of new high-paying jobs in this country. Let me repeat that for some of my friends on the other side of the aisle, this bill will create high-paying, high-quality jobs in healthcare delivery, technology, and research in the United States.

First, this bill will create enormous demand for healthcare workers, especially in the area of primary care. Insuring the millions of Americans in this country who currently have no insurance will allow them to see primary care providers and receive the wellness and preventive care they have been denied for too long. This influx of new patients will need doctors, nurses and technicians for their care, while reducing overall healthcare costs because they will not need much more expensive hospitalizations. I support channeling resources that for too long have been used to treat people once they become sick into jobs and services that will prevent people from getting sick in the first place.

Second, this bill will continue the efforts we began in the stimulus package to deploy new health information technologies that better manage both the quality of care people receive and the cost at which they receive it. New health care exchanges and new demands on the health system to provide high-quality and cost-effective health care will create new opportunities and markets for our brightest technology minds. They will be incentivized to create and develop products that will be a win/win for Americans: high quality health care at an affordable price.

Third, this bill will create high quality research opportunities in this country. The Energy and Commerce Committee enacted a framework for allowing biosimilar competition in this country. This new class of medicines will help lower costs and bring competition to one area that is key to the future of our healthcare system. Biotechnology is on the cutting edge of efforts to reducing costly invasive procedures and allowing our constituents to live healthier and more productive lives. The creation of this new class of medicines comes with requirements for new clinical research and testing, especially in the area of whether a new biosimilar can be interchangeable with an innovator's product. This research will create high quality and high paying jobs and it is imperative that we keep this research and these jobs in this country. We cannot allow these research opportunities to leave

this country, and I intend to work with the Secretary of HHS and the Commissioner of the FDA to ensure they stay in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I do not look at this bill as one of cost or drain on the economy of our country like so many of its opponents on the other side of the aisle. I see this bill as an exciting opportunity to create the kind of jobs we so desperately need in this country while at the same time improving the lives of all Americans. This bill will improve health care, create jobs and grow our economy.

NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H. Res. 700, designating the week of November 9 as National School Psychology Week to draw attention to the threat to liberty posed by proposals that school physiologists perform mandatory mental evaluations of all school children without parental consent.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too

easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applied to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

In order to protect our nation's children from mandatory mental health screening, I have introduced the Parental Consent Act (H.R. 2218). This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children. I hope all my colleagues will cosponsor H.R. 2218.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the emergency extension of unemployment benefit passed yesterday for States with high rates of unemployment like my home state of New Jersey. Today's passage of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 is the final step before it is presented to President Obama for his signature.

As I said in September when we first considered this measure, I hear all the time from central New Jersey residents who are working hard each day to find a new job. Recently, a Mercer County resident wrote me to say his wife had been out of work for 11 months. He wrote to say, "The jobs are just not available for her to go back to work." This bill answers his plea and the pleas of countless other out of work New Jersey residents to extend unemployment benefits while they continue to search for employment.

In tough economic times, Congress and the President have worked together to extend unemployment benefits when needed. The previous extensions of unemployment insurance during this current recession have helped many New Jersey residents keep a roof over their head and food on the table when times were tough. In this tight job market and with the economy just starting to show signs of recovery, there are still six unemployed workers for each job opening and more than 5 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months.

The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, H.R. 3548, would extend by 14 weeks unemployment benefits for individ-

uals who have exhausted their current benefits in all States and by an additional 6 weeks for individuals who live in States with an unemployment rates above 8.5 percent.

Our Government must help those in need as they seek new work. Morally, it is the right thing to do and the economists tell us that unemployment benefits are one of the most cost-efficient and fast-acting forms of economic stimulus.

The bill does not add to the deficit, by off setting its cost with a 1 year extension of a employment tax that has been in place for 30 years.

Once this bill is signed into law it is estimated that the extension of unemployment benefits will help more than 1.3 million out of work employees.

RECOGNIZING THE REDEDICATION OF THE W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax County, Virginia. The W.T. Woodson High School has consistently been recognized as one of the top ranked schools in the country and continues to educate and shape our future leaders. I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of this school and all the students and faculty who have been a part of its storied history.

The W.T. Woodson High School first opened its doors to students in 1962. At this time, Woodson was not only the largest school in Fairfax County but the largest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Built on a dairy farm, Woodson's campus continues to be the largest high school campus in Fairfax County.

Woodson High School was named in honor of the late superintendent of the Fairfax County Schools Mr. Wilbert Tucker Woodson. Mr. Woodson dedicated himself to his community and to the students of Fairfax County from 1921 to 1961. He inspired a tradition of service to community, and dedication to a well-rounded education that is still shared today. Today, Woodson continues to be recognized for having the best teachers in the county, a distinguished arts program led by their chorale and theater programs, and one of the most competitive sports programs.

While Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and a parent of a Woodson student, I was proud to be a partner in the renovations to the W.T. Woodson High School. Together with parents, faculty, and community leaders, we were successful in securing funds to start the much needed renovation to this school. Renovations to Woodson began in 2005 and were completed this year. As a result of our community's commitment to investments in education, we were able to create a new fine arts wing, renovate the cafeteria, expand and remodel the auditorium, as well as make improvements to classrooms and athletic facilities.

Woodson is an example of the culmination of the efforts of a community that came together for a common goal. Our community re-

alized the critical investments we must make in our nation's future by providing a positive community oriented learning experience for our children. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the W.T. Woodson High School and its community's commitment and dedication to our students and the future leaders of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for votes on Thursday, November 5, 2009. However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on:

(1) H. Con. Res. 210—providing for the House, upon completion of The Affordable Health Care for America Act, to adjourn until November 16, 2009.

(2) H. Res. 893—Congratulating the 2009 Major League Baseball World Series Champions, the New York Yankees.

(3) H.R. 3788—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3900 Darrow Road in Stow, Ohio, as the "Corporal Joseph A. Tomci Post Office Building."

(4) S. 1211—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 School Street, Orchard Park, New York, as the "Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building."

(5) Thompson Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. ("aye")

(6) Final Passage of H.R. 2868—Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

Also, I would have voted "no" on:

(1) Barton Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(2) Dent (PA)/Olson (TX) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(3) Dent (PA) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(4) McCaul (TX) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(5) Motion to Recommit H.R. 2868 to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT (H.R. 3962)

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act marks the most important single step in 100 years in addressing the health care needs of American families. For the first time, the U.S. government has dealt comprehensively with the entire health care system.

Tonight I voted for every Oregonian who has faced bankruptcy when they've lost their care or has been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Tonight, I voted to protect every Oregonian who has health insurance but sees their costs rising every year.

I'm pleased we were successful in the incorporation of major reforms, improving care for all Americans while strengthening the position of Oregon medical care providers.

This critical milestone, while historic, signals more hard work ahead to get the bill to the

President's desk. I will work to strengthen the reforms while fighting to lower costs to make health care more affordable for families and the federal treasury.

We must then be prepared to keep working to implement this sweeping change. But to-

night we should all pause to celebrate this moment in history.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 17

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the international aspects of global climate change.

SD-366

Judiciary

Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on preventing terrorist attacks and protecting privacy in cyberspace.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States counterterrorism priorities and strategy across Africa's Sahel region.

SD-419

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the United States child nutrition programs, focusing on opportuni-

ties to fight hunger and improve child health.

SD-562

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1524, to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, S. 1739, to promote freedom of the press around the world, S. 1067, to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, proposed legislation deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters, H. Con. Res. 36, calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral for a the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, adopted at The Hague on November 23, 2007, and signed by the United States on that same date (Treaty Doc. 110-21), the nominations of Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, William E. Kennard, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, John F. Tefft, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Michael C. Polt, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, and Cynthia Stroum, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, all of the Department of State, and James LaGarde Hudson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of

the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aggressive sales tactics on the Internet and their impact on American consumers.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States and the G-20, focusing on re-making the international economic architecture.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine H1N1 flu, focusing on getting the vaccine to where it is needed most.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers from overdraft fees, focusing on the Fairness and Accountability in Receiving Overdraft Coverage Act.

SD-538

NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reforming the United States financial market regulation.

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine easing the burdens through employment.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing Federal forests in response to climate change, focusing on natural resource adaptation and carbon sequestration.

SD-366

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine environmental stewardship policies related to offshore energy production.

SD-366